

REMARKS

Before examination on the merits, please enter this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended and new claims 26-30 have been added. No new matter has been presented.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP



Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

Customer Number: 33308
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111 KMB/jd
Facsimile: (703) 518-5499
Date: January 9, 2004